

MEAT PLANT EXPANSION RESOURCES FOR USDA MPPEP GRANTS

(As of 3.2.22)

With the release of the USDA Meat and Poultry Expansion Program (MPPEP) grants on February 24, 2022 there are a number of resources that meat plant owners might need in order to navigate the application process. *NOTE: The following is a list of steps and resource experts that might be needed when considering whether or not to apply for a USDA grant and/or business loan. This resource list is not all inclusive, but intended only to be a reference for businesses new to loan and grant processes.*

The Meat & Poultry Expansion Program grant homepage:

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/meat-and-poultry-processing-expansion-program>

NOTE: Applications must be submitted by April 11, 2022 by 11:59 pm EST.

USDA MPPEP Training videos:

- 2.28.22 (video will be posted on MPPEP web page at a later date)
- 3.7.22 Applicant Requirements Training: March 7 at 2 p.m. Eastern Time. [Webinar Registration](#) (keep in mind the 2PM ET is 12:00 Noon Mountain Time)

USDA MPPEP Application Checklist: To see what the application process entails go to:

https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/mppep_application_checklist.pdf

Another MPPEP requirement includes having a SAM number. This could take 2 to 3 weeks to process, so they suggested getting an early start. If you have difficulties, you can call 1.800.518.4726 or email at support@grants.gov

Keep in mind that the MPPEP grant is stage one of two USDA meat and poultry infrastructure grant opportunities. This first stage is focusing on “shovel ready” projects. The second round will be offered “some time in the summer”. The maximum amount you can apply for on this round is \$25 Million or 20% of the total project cost....whichever is LESS

USDA requires a number of items on the application that will help you expand or build your meat plant whether or not you get a grant. These steps are also critical for going after a business loan, so your efforts can be put to good use either way!

Here are a few considerations of what you might need when working with your lender for growth financing:

- A business plan (including a marketing section)
- A financial plan specific to your business
- A loan guarantee (work directly with your lender on selecting a loan guarantee)
 - <https://www.rd.usda.gov/food-supply-chain-guaranteed-loans>
 - <https://www.sba.gov/offices/district/nd/fargo/resources/improve-your-borrowing-power-sba-loan-guarantee>
- Collateral

- Federal, state, or county grants
- Business owner cash
- Demonstration of supply and demand: This could be MOUs or contracts from both suppliers (ranchers) and purchasers (i.e. existing and future customers.)

If you don't have people on staff at your business to work on loan or grant applications, you might consider finding an "expert" for the various tasks:

Business/Marketing/Financial Plans:

- Accounting firms or your local lending institution
- Small Business Development Centers (SBDC): <https://utahsbdc.org/>

**Note SBDC Services are free & confidential across the state

Sample building plans and inspection information:

- <https://ag.utah.gov/farmers/animal-industry/meat-and-poultry-inspection/>

Environmental plans: (to address waste water etc.)

- Engineering firms

Building permits (new & expanding):

- County/City Planning & Zoning staff